



# DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Dale J Schmidt Sheriff Scott Mittelstadt Chief Deputy

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: June 3, 2020

Sheriff Dale J. Schmidt

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## **Sheriff's Office position on protests that may occur in Dodge County**

As protests and riots become more widespread around our country and begin to move into more rural areas such as Dodge County, I want the citizens of Dodge County to know my position on how we will respond. The Dodge County Sheriff's Office Vision and Mission Statements are as follows:

**Vision Statement:** The Dodge County Sheriff's Office will partner with the community and develop proactive solutions toward making Dodge County a safe and enjoyable place to live, work and visit.

**Mission Statement:** The Dodge County Sheriff's Office will safeguard the lives, property and constitutional rights of our citizens through honest, ethical and professional service to the community.

Our organization lives by these statements and by the core values of INTEGRITY, ACCOUNTABILITY, TEAMWORK, LEADERSHIP and SERVICE.

With that being said, we will live by these statements and values if any group decides to protest.

As a reminder, it is legal to protest and make your opinions known. The Dodge County Sheriff's Office will protect your right to legally protest and we will never infringe on your constitutional right to freedom of speech. It is important to remember that protests must remain legal and peaceful and must not violate the law or infringe on the rights of other citizens.

Residents and business owners I would like you to also know that no one has the right to trespass, vandalize or damage your property. The Wisconsin Constitution gives the duty and authority to the Sheriff to maintain law and order and to preserve the peace. In Dodge County, we will do that and I will work with the local police departments to accomplish that goal.

In closing, as Dodge County Sheriff, I support the constitutional right to freedom of speech, but that right does not permit anyone to break the law in order to accomplish the exercise of that freedom.

Questions may be directed to Sheriff Dale J. Schmidt.

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